(b) the number of iron and steel plants under construction as on 1 st July, 2006; and

(c) the recommendations of Committee on providing captive mines to these under construction iron and steel plants and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (c) The recommendations of High Level Committee are under consideration of the Government. The Information on the number of iron and steel plants under construction as on 1st July, 2006 is being collected and will be laid down on the Table of the House.

Demands against recommendations of Hoda Committee

†62. SHRI DATTAMEGHE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some States have made a demand against recommendations of Hoda Committee that the privilege of awarding mining lease to any special company should rest with the States itself;

(b) if so, the details of decision taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether these States have also demanded that only such companies should be given priority in allotment of mining lease which install their plants in these States; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (d) The Hoda Committee has recommended that the provisions in the Mines and Minerals(Development & Regulations) Act, 1957 which grants overriding discretion to the State Government to bypass the priority principle in any situation shodul be deleted. Few State Governments have requested that powers to consider a later applicant who has invested/proposed to invest in the mineral based industry in the State for grant of mineral concession should continue. The same are under consideration of the Gbvernment.

†Originai notice of the question was received in Hindi.